Extending Custmoms Clearance and Port-Facilities for Nepalese Goods

*543. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government during recent Nepalese Prime Minister's visit to New t)elhi agreed to extend additional customs clearance and port facilities for Nepalese goods in transit;

(b) if so, on what precise terms; and

(c) how it is likely to affect India's trade and export-prospects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The further improvements in the transit regime for Nepal have been agreed on terms as below:

i) Nepal's trade in transit to have the facility of the additional ports of Kandla and Bombay and on the same terms as are available to Indian nationals, subject to the transit of goods taking place in customs sealed containers *via* shortest designated railway routes.

ii) Provision of additional facilities for customs clearance at Raxaul for Nepal's trade in transit which is containerised under customs seal from/to Kandla, Bombay and Calcutta.

(c) It is not likely to affect India's trade and export prospects.

Decision to Allow Cement Industry to own Coal Mines

*544. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Goemment have decided to allow the cement industry to own coal mines for captive consumption;

(b) if so, the places where these mines are likely to be located and the anticipated cost and time likely to be taken in setting up these mines; and

(c) the manner in which it would affect the earnings of the Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries which were earlier supplying coal to the cement industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Products marketed by APEDA

*545. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM: DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the new products of processed foods marketed during the last three years by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA);

(b) what is the total value of these exports;

(c) what is the establishment cost of this Authority;

(d) the necessity of having the authority; and

(e) whether any review of the work done by this Authority has been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is a promotional body entrusted with the development and promotion of export of products coming under its schedule. It does not undertake direct marketing of any products.

(b) Total value of exports of products coming under the APEDA schedule during 1993-94 was Rs. 1753.23 crores.